

Representatives Daugherty and ranking member Hwang and members of the Public Health committee, I am testifying today on behalf of the 55,000 members of the Connecticut Alliance for Retired Americans on HB 5277- An Act Concerning the Establishment of Technical Standards for Medical Diagnostic Equipment that Promotes Accessibility in Health Care Facilities. I am Bette Marafino, President of the Connecticut Alliance.

This is an important issue for many of our members who are concerned for their safety when visiting a medical facility , even for a routine physical examination.

These standards will not only aid the disabled but will make doctor's visits safer and easier.

My 97-year old uncle Johnny, needs his nephew to be at these doctor visits so he can help my uncle onto the examining table. Though, I am a senior citizen, and able-bodied, at 5'1 I have trouble accessing the height of examining tables and other diagnostic equipment. At a recent visit to a cardiologist for an EKG I needed help getting on the exam table. The attending nurse said that most people have difficulty and she wishes that adjustable examining table levers would make her job a lot easier and be easier on her back.

It is perplexing that in 2022 we have a bill calling for basic technical standards in medical facilities . This is something that should have been enacted years ago.

The CT Alliance for Retired Americans calls on the Public Health committee and the General Assembly to pass HR 5277 this legislative session.

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